

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) ~~A material strength measuring and evaluating apparatus which functions by detecting charged particles~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the indentation load detector is an electronic balance positioned below the test object.

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Claim 10. (Currently Amended) ~~A material strength measuring and evaluating apparatus which functions by detecting charged particles~~ The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the displacement detector is a light reflection intensity meter or a light interference meter each ~~capable of~~ for measuring a relative displacement of the indenter with respect to the test object.

#### IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the Abstract at page 21 in its entirety (do not delete the header) and substitute therefore:

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A material strength measuring and evaluating method for measuring and evaluating of at least one of a peel strength and a fragility breaking strength of a fragile thin film. The method includes pressing an indenter into a test object and measuring an indentation load and an indentation depth, while at the same time detecting charged particles emitted from a peel starting point or a breakage starting point, specifying a peel occurring time and a fragility breaking time when charged particles are increased, and measuring a the at least one of peel strength and the fragility breaking strength.